

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8594

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

S E C R E T DACCA 5398

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, BG, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM ZIA

1. AT 1245 TODAY (NOVEMBER 7), THE AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED UPON BY THREE MEMBERS OF DEFENSE FORCES INTELLIGENCE SENT BY MAJOR GENERAL ZIAUR RAHMAN, THE CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA). THE THREE-AIR COMMODORE ISLAM, DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE FORCES INTELLIGENCE; COLONEL ULLAH, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF DFI; AND MAJOR MOHSIN, DFI'S LIAISON OFFICER TO FOREIGN MISSIONS--STATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY TO THE AMBASSADOR THE PERSONAL REGARDS OF GENERAL ZIA AND TO ASSURE US THAT THE CMLA WANTS NO RPT NO CHANGE IN THE GOOD RELATIONS THE UNITED STATES AND BANGLADESH HAVE HAD IN THE PAST; RATHER, HE WISHES THEM TO IMPROVE FURTHER. THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE THREE, MAJOR MOHSIN, SAID THAT BANGLADESH LOOKS FORWARD TO MORE COOPERATION WITH AND HELP FROM THE UNITED STATES. GENERAL ZIA HAD INSTRUCTED HIS EMISSARIES TO TELL THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE (ZIA) HOPES THAT HE AND THE AMBASSADOR CAN MEET IN A DAY OR TWO.

2. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT HE APPRECIATED GENERAL ZIA'S GESTURE, AND WAS PLEASED TO HEAR HIS HOPES FOR FUTURE
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US-BANGLADESH RELATIONS WHICH HE WOULD CONVEY TO HIS

GOVERNMENT. HE STRESSED THAT WE TAKE NO POSITION ON BANGLADESH'S INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS, BUT HAVE SOUGHT TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE AND THOUGHT OUR RECORD OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SPOKE FOR ITSELF. HE ADDED THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING GENERAL ZIA, WHO WAS AN OLD FRIEND.

3. IN ANSWER TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTIONS, THEY SAID THAT GENERAL ZIA HAD BEEN KEPT IN CUSTODY FOLLOWING MONDAY'S COUP BY KHALID MOSHARRAF AND THAT TODAY'S OUSTER OF MOSHARRAF AND REPLACEMENT BY ZIA WAS THE RESULT OF A "POPULAR UPSURGE." THEY SAID THAT THE FIGHTING WHICH BEGAN AT 0100 THIS MORNING WAS EXTENSIVE BUT DESCRIBED CASUALTIES AS LIGHT, NUMBERING PERHAPS 30 OR LESS. ASKED ABOUT MOSHARRAF'S WHEREABOUTS, THEY SAID HE WAS IN THEIR CUSTODY, BUT WAFFLED ABOUT HIS WELL-BEING. ASKED IF GENERAL ZIA WAS THE OFFICIAL WHO WAS IN EFFECTIVE CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT, THEY REPLIED EMPHATICALLY THAT HE WAS VERY MUCH IN CHARGE.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA05398
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750387-0541
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751165/aaaacfrf.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FROM ZIA
TAGS: PFOR, BG, US, (RAHMAN, ZIAUR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006